

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Fifth Year.
VOL. V, No. 7.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 13th FEBRUARY, 1890.

\$1.50 per annum in advance.
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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, P. O. Box 316, Ottawa, Ont.

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The Militia Annual Report.

The report of the Department of Militia and Defence for the year 1889 has been laid before Parliament by the Minister, Sir Adolphe Caron. As usual it bristles with recommendations for the improvement of the force, but from the fact that only the ordinary appropriation has been asked from Parliament for the year commencing 1st July next, it seems to have been determined upon already that such of these recommendations as involve any extra expense are not to be carried out.

The Deputy Minister, Col. C. E. Panet, deals with the finances, and also gives some statistics which help to make the financial statement more readily understood and therefore more interesting. For instance, we find the permanent forces, on which the schools are based, cost half a million of the total of \$1,364,779 of the militia expenditure of the year, exclusive of the military pension list of \$31,939. From the schools 350 officers and non-commissioned officers received certificates, so that if we take the institutions as schools only, without calculating the value they may possess as a standing army, it is found that the cost of training each scholar has been in round numbers \$1,350. The inquiry suggests itself, if equally beneficial results could not be obtained at much less expense.

It is satisfactory to note that the cartridge factory at Quebec is in good working order, and turning out Snider ammunition in quantities more than sufficient to supply the demand. The Superintendent is quite proud of his product, and not satisfied with quoting statistics of doubtful meaning to show that the 1889 manufacture is better than that of 1888, earnestly proceeds to point out that at the D.R.A. meeting better results were obtained with the Snider rifle and Canadian ammunition than with the Martini rifle and English made ammunition. "In the Dominion of Canada Match," the Deputy makes him say, "the 78's were counted out, and in the Governor General's, with Martini, the 62's were not counted out, showing better general scoring with the Snider than with the Martini under the same conditions of range." The weak point about this argument is that it took 87 points (not 62) to win a prize in the Governor-General's Match, against 78 in its Snider contemporary. Fortunately all shooting men know the ammunition to be much more reliable than the statistics paraded in its support.

The General Officer Commanding reports having visited most of the Schools, and each of these useful if expensive institutions he found to be in need of much that, if provided, will add to their usefulness and cost. In connection with our recent references to the expected military superannuation bill, it is interesting to note that General Middleton some time ago submitted a detailed scheme to the Government. He reiterates many of his recommendations of former years with respect to the schools, the district camps, the equipment, and the necessity of giving more encouragement to the shooting of the force in general. In this last connection he advocates the establishment of a school for musketry instruction only—a Canadian Hythe.

Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant General, contributes this instructive memorandum on the subject of the disposition of the money available for drill.

"The sum voted for drill and training during the financial year 1889-90 was \$250,000, therefore only a portion of the force could be paid for drills performed.

"The Active force, exclusive of the Permanent Corps, numbers 36,395, of which 10,055 are in cities and 26,340 in the country parts. The proportion of the strength of different arms in the cities is: cavalry, 482; field batteries, 722; garrison artillery, 1,181; engineers, 134; infantry, 7,536. In rural parts: cavalry, 1,462; field artillery, 718; garrison artillery, 742; engineers, 45; infantry, 23,373. The number of officers and men exclusive of the horses of mounted officers of infantry, and of the officers and men of cavalry and artillery, which could be paid, were estimated at 19,225.

"The plan adopted, as in years past, was to drill the whole of the city corps, except field batteries and corps which belonged to rural organizations, for twelve days at their local headquarters, and to order as many of the rural corps and field batteries into camps of exercise for twelve days, as, with the city corps, would make up the total strength that the appropriation provided for. These were distributed amongst the several Military Districts in proportion to the strength of the Active Militia in each, as follows:—No. 1, 2,420; No. 2, 3,442; No. 3, 1,858; No. 4, 1,135; No. 5, 2,712; No. 6, 1,287; No. 7, 2,147; No. 8, 1,304; No. 9, 1,932; No. 10, 431; No. 11, 230; No. 12, 327; total, 19,225. The strength of city corps authorized to drill at their headquarters was deducted from the total strength authorized for drill; the remainder, which included about one-third of the rural corps in the Dominion, represented the number which could be concentrated in camps of exercise."

Each of the Deputy Adjutant Generals has recommendations to make. Taking them in the numerical order of their districts, Lieut.-Col. Smith asks cheaper ammunition so as to facilitate that practice which alone helps the rifleman along the way to perfection. Lieut.-Col. Otter asks an annual issue of ammunition for practice whether the drill is annual or otherwise; he again advocates camp training for city corps. Lieut.-Col. Van Straubenzee recommends that the camp for the combined districts over which he presides be held regularly at Kingston. Lieut.-Col. Houghton asks that rubber sheets be issued to keep the men off the wet ground while at camp. He complains of the poor physique of the recruits, there being too many boys and old men. He considers that the time of camp is insufficient for training, only six and a half working days being realized in his district out of the nominal twelve days. Lieut.-Col. d'Orsonnens is very outspoken in his report, the first he has had an opportunity of making as Deputy Adjutant General of No. 6 District. He does not hesitate to note the decidedly weak points of several of the corps, and to instance desirable improvements. For example, he found the arms in many cases stored away in private houses and garrets, and has taken steps to secure more suitable armouries at each headquarters. He recommends the retirement of the antiquated cross-belts and ammunition pouches attached, as he considers them worse than useless. Lieut.-Col. Duchesnay notes with regret the

reluctance of the officers to attend the schools, after receiving their provisional appointments without qualifying. Lieut.-Col. Maunsell notes that increased attention to target practice is necessary, and he places on record the fact that one of the captains in his district is over age. Lieut.-Col. Worsley says several of his captains have likewise passed the age of usefulness in that rank. Lieut.-Col. Villiers calls for new rifles and accoutrements to replace the useless outfit on his hands; and Lieut.-Col. Holmes asks accommodation and equipment for his British Columbia forces.

The Musketry Instructors are unanimous in declaring that more practice with the rifle is necessary to make the men reasonably efficient; with the exception of Lieut.-Col. Irving, who says of the Prince Edward Islanders that "the men are nearly all good practical shots." Several recommend an issue of ammunition to each corps every year, whether or not the corps is called upon to drill; and the offer of prizes by the Government for proficiency shown in the class firing is strongly urged.

To Col. Bergin, M.P., Surgeon General, we particularly commend the report of the Principal Medical Officers of the various camps, as a word from him in Parliament would be very useful. They join in lamenting that their medical chests are very ill supplied with even the most necessary articles. They are almost unanimous in asking the issue of two blankets and a rubber sheet per man, in place of the single blanket now served out. They call attention to the fact that at many of the camps there were no stretchers or other ambulance appliances, and they request that steps be taken to supply these most necessary articles. One Surgeon Major remarks upon the miserable physique of the men brought to camp, says he would have rejected a very large proportion of them, and express his opinion that local influence must have prevailed over the regimental surgeons to make it possible that these poor subjects should have been brought out.

The usual reports of the commandants of the schools are appended; and there is likewise a more than usually interesting statement from the commandant of the Royal Military College. The contents of these will be noted in a later issue; and we will as space permits give our readers the benefit of much more food for reflection contained in the departmental blue-book for 1889.

Our esteemed contemporary the Halifax *Critic* invites our attention anew to the grievance felt by some of the D.A.G.'s that rank superior to theirs has been awarded the Deputy Minister of Militia and the Surgeon General, while every effort to have the D.A.G.'s put a grade higher than regimental commanding officers has failed. The remedy suggested is, of course, that the officer commanding each district should be a full Colonel. The matter is one well worth consideration, and in this instance, happily, no financial difficulty intervenes to postpone consideration indefinitely.

The joke of the season has been perpetrated by a Montreal paper, which after publishing a series of "interviews" with local officers, designed to show that Canada's militia is "in a thoroughly demoralized condition," completes its task by publishing an article which it states *appeared in a Chicago paper ten years ago!* It speaks well for the militia force when its critics have to quote from a foreign paper of ten years ago to support their false allegation of "thorough demoralization."

Objection having been made on behalf of several rural corps who propose entering teams for the Canadian Military Rifle League "simultaneous" competitions, that Saturday is a most inconvenient day for their shooting, it is suggested that such corps as desire to do so should be allowed to shoot on Thursdays instead. Those interested are invited to communicate their views on the subject to the Secretary, Mr. W. R. Pringle, 63 Front Street West, Toronto.

In the last Militia General Orders it is prescribed that Senator Boulton shall for the future have the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (brevet) in place of that of Major, it having been discovered that he was entitled to the superior rank upon his retiring from the 46th Battalion in 1881.

Dominion Artillery Association.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association was held on Thursday last, 6th inst., at 2 p.m., in the railway committee room of the House of Commons. There were present Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, 1st B.F.A., president of the association, in the chair; His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Stanley of Preston, and Capt. Colville, A.D.C.; Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton, Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General; Col. C. E. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Lieut.-Col. de la C. T. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery; Lieut.-Col. Stevenson, Montreal Field Battery; Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Montreal Garrison Artillery; Lieut.-Col. Prior, M.P., British Columbia Garrison Artillery; Lieut.-Col. Smith, 14th Bn.; Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Toronto; Lieut.-Col. Dawson, 10th R.G., Toronto; Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick, M.P., 47th Bn.; Major Drennan, Kingston F. B.; Major Van Wagner, Hamilton F. B.; Major King, Welland F. B.; Major Stewart, Major Woodburn, Surgeon Bell, Asst. Surgeon Harris, Capt. Bliss, Lieut. Hurdman, Ottawa F. B.; Lieut. Irving, Toronto; Lieut. Magor, Montreal; Messrs. R. Myles, T. W. Jones, J. Innes, M.P., Dr. Ferguson, M.P., Welland, Wm. Mulock, M.P., Capt. J. B. Donaldson (secretary) and others.

On motion of Lt.-Col. Turnbull, seconded by Lt.-Col. Stevenson, the thanks of the association were tendered to the Governor-General for the interest he had shown in its affairs.

Lord Stanley in reply said that he was himself an eye-witness last year of some part of the work of the association. So far as he could give an opinion, the work done was extremely satisfactory, and the gun practice he saw was smart, active and intelligent. He hoped that the Minister of Defence, who was not present, would forgive him when he said that the only deficiency he observed was that the men had not better guns. After alluding to the importance of better ordnance, he said he did not think it was expected that a country in Canada's position should possess the latest improvement in guns, but he ventured to indicate last year that there appeared to him to be a means by which the Dominion gunners might keep up with the improvements in artillery without incurring more expense for the purchase of guns. He was sure that if the Imperial authorities were approached the guns which were mounted for Imperial defence at Halifax could be utilized. He thought Sir John Ross would co-operate to enable gun detachments to obtain the best means of instruction with the most improved ordnance on the northern continent. He had been told that to a certain extent this instruction had been availed of by the Halifax artillery, but he was sorry detachments from other cities had not been sent, the difficulty being only one of travelling expenses. He had only to hope that this association would not relax any of its efforts in aid of artillery science. He was sure that an association such as this, representing the feeling of artillery officers in all parts of the Dominion, was able to do very much good in the permanent defence of the country. He hoped the authorities would give due consideration to representations proceeding from this organization, and that in the time to come as in the past they would receive from the Government that assistance which they had a right to look for. He might say that whether in an individual or public capacity, he trusted they would find him ready to do his utmost for the association. (Applause.)

THE YEAR'S WORK REVIEWED.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald in moving the adoption of the annual report, said the central competitions of the past year has been of exceptional advantage to the association; but he advocated the holding of a camp for the field artillery as well as for the garrison, as only by that plan could uniformity be secured in the shooting conditions and a fair test be made of their relative merits. The past year it had happened at the central competition at Kingston that some detachments shot on very fine days, but others had weather quite the reverse. It had been suggested that a team should be sent to Shoeburyness this year, and the subject deserved serious consideration. Were such a team sent, however, there would probably not be funds for the Orleans competition, so choice had to be made between the two.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin said an important feature of the season's practice, dealt with in the report, was the inauguration of range finding practice as laid down for the Royal Artillery. Very good results had been achieved this season. He was happy to be able to say that a number of improved sights had been secured. As to the driving competitions, there had been a marked development of these since he had instituted them, in a very crude form, in A Battery thirteen years ago, and they had now become very popular. As to the instructional targets mentioned in the report, the expense of providing these at local headquarters would be borne by the association. It had been decided to adopt the Royal Artillery manual of artillery instruction, as the Canadian manual was now out of print.

A POINT OF PROCEDURE.

In amendment to the motion to adopt the report, Mr. L. H. Irving moved, seconded by Major King, that inasmuch as no terms had been

aid down for the drill and driving competition of 1889, the prizes should be awarded on the published conditions of 1887. In support of his motion, he contended that what had served as conditions this year were irregularly promulgated, and therefore of no effect.

Lt.-Col. Irwin held that the proceedings had been perfectly regular. The circular containing the conditions had, he said, been issued on the 25th April, and mailed to members of the executive in the usual way, and there being no objection the conditions there laid down were adopted.

Lt.-Col. Stevenson spoke in support of the course which had been followed. So did Surgeon Bell. A show of hands was then called for, and Mr. Irving's amendment was declared lost. A similar resolution with respect to the shifting ordnance competition was also lost, after brief discussion.

The report was then adopted.

MINISTER AND PARLIAMENT.

Lieut.-Col. Stevenson moved, seconded by Major Drennan, that a vote of thanks be tendered to Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, for assistance rendered the association.

Mr. Mulock, M.P., enquired whether the assistance was personal or in the shape of a grant of public money. If the latter, he thought the Parliament should come in somewhere.

The mover thereupon altered his resolution so as to read, "the Minister of Militia and Parliament," and it passed.

SIR FRED MIDDLETON PRESIDENT.

The election of officers being next in order, Lieut.-Col. Macdonald moved, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Stevenson, that Lieut.-Gen. Sir Fred Middleton be elected president. This was carried unanimously, and Col. Macdonald surrendered the chair to his successor. Sir Fred Middleton said he took the office only because he believed it was the general wish that he should do so. He hoped he should be as successful as all his predecessors had been. He had always taken a great interest in artillery; and though not the rose, he had lived near the rose, having two brothers in the artillery and having himself gone through a course. As president, it would be his endeavour to so conduct himself that the association would not regret having conferred that high honour upon him.

These vice-presidents were elected: Lieut.-Col. A. A. Stevenson, Montreal Field Battery; Lieut.-Col. A. E. Curren, Halifax Bde. Garrison Artillery; Lieut.-Col. J. R. Armstrong, New Brunswick Bde. Garrison Artillery; Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, British Columbia Garrison Artillery. The first three were re-elected. Col. Prior takes the place of Capt. W. B. McMurrich, of the Toronto Battery.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald said that as President he had had in his possession, received from his predecessor, a cup the joint property of the National Artillery Association of Great Britain and of the Dominion Association. This he would have great pleasure in delivering to his successor.

On motion of Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Irwin, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Lieut.-Col. Macdonald for his services as president, and Col. Macdonald suitably replied.

Votes of thanks to Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson and Mr. F. E. Knight, the auditors, and to Capt. J. B. Donaldson, secretary-treasurer, were unanimously accorded.

THE ONTARIO BATTERY FEES.

A report was then presented, from the Council, on the much vexed question of fees payable by the Ontario Association, referred to them. The dispute was as to the interpretation to be put upon these two clauses of the constitution:

"3. That any Canadian Artillery or Engineer Corps, the Royal Military College Cadets, and the Artillery detachment of the North-West Mounted Police Force, subscribing not less than *ten dollars* per Field and *six dollars* per Garrison Battery, per annum, may become affiliated to this Association, and shall be entitled to a number of memberships in the proportion of one for each two dollars thus subscribed, the officers of each subscribing Battery to select from amongst themselves the person to hold such memberships and return their names and addresses, when selected, to the Secretary, to be registered by him previous to the Annual General Meeting."

"20. Whenever an Artillery Association is formed for any of the Provinces of the Dominion, such Association shall be entitled to affiliate with this Association on payment annually of \$2.50 for each battery comprising such Provincial Association."

The Council reported that in their opinion the Ontario Association should pay the affiliation fee of \$2.50 per battery, mentioned in section 20, in addition to the affiliation fees payable by the individual batteries as in section 3.

On motion to adopt this report Mr. L. H. Irving moved in amendment, seconded by Major King, that the intent of these sections be declared to be that the fee mentioned in section 20, and to be paid by the Ontario Association, affiliated to the Dominion Association all the batteries comprised in the Ontario membership, which batteries thereby became relieved from paying the fees mentioned in section 3.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin showed the error of the contention of those who supported the amendment. He stated that when the Ontario association was formed, the Dominion surrendered to it the whole of Ontario as a recruiting ground for subscriptions, but the Ontario association was asked to pay a small affiliation fee in return for the benefits it received from the Dominion association. This fee was not made any fixed sum, but was rather placed at \$2.50 for every battery which might join the Ontario association. It was not fair to say that whereas a Quebec battery affiliated with the Dominion association for \$10, it cost an Ontario battery \$12.50, because the \$2.50 per battery was not at all for the affiliation of individual batteries, but for the affiliation of the Ontario association. In return that association got the use of all the official scores of the Dominion competitions, and they awarded their prizes in accordance with those scores without having the trouble or expense of holding competitions of their own. He thought the Ontario association ought to be, and had been, a source of strength to the Dominion Association, and he sincerely hoped no trouble would be allowed to arise to make it a source of weakness.

After discussion the amendment was declared lost and the report of council adopted.

Lieut.-Col. Stevenson moved, seconded by Major Drennan, that the Government be requested to furnish Morris tubes for firing practice, to every field and garrison battery in the Dominion. Carried.

THE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council was held immediately after the annual general meeting, Lieut.-Col. Turnbull in the chair. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Lieut.-Col. Turnbull; vice-presidents, Lieut.-Col. Peters, Lieut.-Col. Moore, Major Mead and Major Lindsay; executive committee, Lieut.-Col. Armstrong and Major Stewart; secretary-treasurer, Capt. Donaldson.

It was decided to supply each officer, field and garrison, with a copy of their respective manuals, Royal Artillery edition.

The establishment of competitions and preparation of prize-list were referred to the executive committee.

It was moved and seconded that this Council is not in favour of presenting prizes for voluntary drills. Lost.

Moved and seconded that competitors chosen from batteries for annual gun practice must have attended the last annual drill of their batteries. Moved that the following be added to the above: "but any non-commissioned officer or man absent from annual drill by reason of having been selected as a member of a team sent to Wimbledon or Shoburness, may be selected as a competitor, though absent from such drill with leave." Original motion carried.

Dominion Rifle Association.

The annual business meeting of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association was held in the Railway Committee room, House of Commons, Ottawa, on Wednesday last, 5th inst, commencing at 11 a.m. The president of the association, Lieut.-Col. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., 47th Batt., presided, and there were also present His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Stanley of Preston, attended by Capt. MacMahon A.D.C.; Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton, Sir John Thompson, Minister of Justice (a member of the council from Nova Scotia); Hon. Chas. H. Tupper, Minister of Marine and Fisheries (also a member of council from Nova Scotia); Hon. W. J. Macdonald, Senator (a member of council from British Columbia); Lieut.-Col. Hon. J. A. Ouimet, M.P. (Speaker), president of the council; Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, M.P., B.C.G.A.; Lieut.-Col. Denison, M.P., C.M.G., Gov.-Gen.'s Body Guard; J. Scriver, M.P.; E. Holton, M.P.; Major H. A. Ward, M.P., 46th Batt.; Lieut.-Col. McEachern, C.M.G.; Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General; Col. C. E. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Lieut.-Col. de la C. T. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery; Lieut.-Col. W. D. Otter, D.A.G., Toronto; Lieut.-Col. White, Ottawa; Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, 1st B.F.A.; Lieut.-Col. F. Massey, 6th Fusiliers; Lieut.-Col. Geo. D. Dawson, 10th Royal Grenadiers; Lieut.-Col. Thos. Ross, Lieut.-Col. John Tilton, Lieut.-Col. D. A. Macdonald, Ottawa; Lieut.-Col. Brosseau, 85th Batt.; Lieut.-Col. H. R. Smith, 14th Batt.; Lieut.-Col. W. P. Anderson, 43rd Batt.; Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson (treasurer), Lieut.-Col. Thos. Bacon (secretary), Major W. Blaiklock, 5th Royal Scots; Major F. Toller, G.G.F.G.; Major E. L. Bond, 1st P.W.R.; Major A. P. Sherwood, 43rd Batt.; Capt. John Hood, 5th Royal Scots; Capt. H. H. Gray, G.G.F.G.; Capt. W. C. Macdonald, Queen's Own Rifles; W. R. Pringle, Toronto; W. I. Marler and J. D. Taylor, Ottawa.

The annual report, printed and circulated, was presented and adopted, on motion of Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Ouimet. The mover referred to the rapid increase in the attendance of competitors, from 284 in 1884 to 416 in 1889, and the fact that, increased range accommodation being necessary, it was proposed to add ten

targets to those now erected on Rideau range, the lease of which has been renewed for five years.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Lieut.-Col. Denison moved a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General for his attendance at the meeting, and for his liberal contribution to last year's prize list. Col. Denison said His Excellency had been regularly with them at their annual meetings since he became Governor-General, and had shown an example of punctuality that morning by which they all could profit. We were glad to have as Governor-General not only a military man but one who had held the high office of Secretary of State for War in the Imperial Government. The vote was seconded by Lieut.-Col. Brosseau.

Lord Stanley said in reply: "I thank you sincerely for your kind welcome to me to-day, and I can only assure you that it gives me great pleasure to attend this meeting. As your president has said, the meeting to-day is not to be judged by the numbers present, and the absence of so many gentlemen is not in the least to be taken as an indication that the association is in any degree falling off in interest. As this is a purely business meeting, it is not my intention to make any long remarks. I must, however, congratulate the association on one thing, and that is that since we last met arrangements have been made, satisfactorily on the whole, for the continuance of the rifle ranges, a matter which at one time threatened the discontinuance of our annual meeting at Ottawa. I am pleased, and I have no doubt you are, that this has been averted. I echo what your president has said about the importance of members trying to do what they can to induce others to join the association. It is in this way perhaps more than any other that the efficiency of the association can be maintained. I do not believe in the least that outsiders are not interested or that they grudge the annual contribution that makes them members; but I cannot help thinking that if half the canvassing exhibited in other directions were exhibited in canvassing for the Rifle Association, one and all of us would be better pleased with the membership. I hope that next year there will be a larger number on the roll. I think very much is due to those who have charge of the active management of the association for the skill displayed in regulating both our affairs and our finances, and they deserve the thanks of the meeting. It is a matter of sincere congratulation that the Wimbledon team, under Col. Bacon and Capt. Hood, have given such a good account of themselves. From all I have read, the contest for the Kolapore cup was by no means child's play but a well-sustained contest, and the interest in the contest was kept up to the last moment. We are, therefore, all proud of the distinction achieved by the Wimbledon team. I hope we shall all continue to do all we can to promote the aims and further the objects of the D.R.A. Col. Denison has alluded to myself in my connection with the army. I assure you, being in the Queen's service and holding other positions in the army, that it is to me a matter of great satisfaction and pleasure to find myself connected with an association which is so prosperous and which seems to have an important future before it in the history of the Dominion." (Applause.)

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA.

Major Bond, seconded by Capt. Hood, moved a vote of thanks to Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, and to Parliament, for the annual grant to the association. The mover said he believed there was no appropriation more heartily supported in the country than was that for rifle shooting purposes. He took occasion to refer to the ammunition question, and expressed the fear that there had been further experimenting at the Quebec factory after satisfactory ammunition had at last been secured.

Sir Adolphe Caron not being present, his Deputy, Col. Panet, acknowledged the vote of thanks on his behalf, explaining that the Minister had been called away somewhere just before the meeting opened. Col. Panet declared there had been no experimenting with the ammunition since the 1888 make, which gave every satisfaction.

Sir John Thompson being asked to speak, said the other members of the Government cordially supported the Minister of Militia in obtaining the grant desired for the maintenance of the force, an important element in producing a national feeling. He was glad of the opportunity to be present as a representative of the Nova Scotia association.

Hon. Charles Tupper was also called upon for a speech. He too was happy to be present to represent his province, and would look after its military interests as far as might be in his power. As Minister of Marine, he might express a tinge of regret that while a good deal had been said on behalf of the military there was not a word about the navy. (Laughter.) He regretted to confess that our naval strength was not what it should be. Those who deplored the laxity in the efforts of members of Parliament in promoting the military welfare should remember that there was hardly any attention paid to our naval forces.

OTHER VOTES OF THANKS.

Lt.-Col. Massey moved, seconded by Lt.-Col. D. A. Macdonald, that the thanks of the association be given to the various donors to the

funds, mentioned in the annual report, and especially to the board of the Canada Club, London. Carried.

Lt.-Col. Bacon moved, seconded by Capt. Hood, that the thanks of the association be given to Lt.-Col. Roberts, commanding 2nd Cambridge University Rifle Volunteers, for the use of the range at Cambridge. Carried.

Major Blaiklock moved a vote of thanks to Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton, for the interest he has taken in the association, and his gifts to the funds.

Sir Fred. Middleton, in replying, said he was highly gratified with the way in which the resolution had been proposed and received. In his position he must necessarily take great interest in everything connected with the force. He was glad to note the success of the Canadian team in carrying off the Kolapore cup, and hoped that in new fields they would be equally successful. He would like to draw attention to one thing, and that was that a soldier's target did not stand still. Some years ago when he ventured in England to express an opinion in favour of moving targets he was almost laughed at, but he was glad to say that his view was now being generally accepted in the old land. He thought an effort should be made to have matches in shooting at movable targets. It was an important thing for men in actual service to be able to judge distances. Where a man was shooting always at a target at a known distance he got no practice at calculating distances. A man who had spent all his life in shooting at a thousand yards would probably not come within a mile of a moving army. To meet this want a target with a motion from right to left had been adopted, but as a general rule enemies were not considerate enough to pass along from right to left. They either advanced or retreated, and when there were British soldiers in the field the enemy generally retreated. (Applause.) He emphasized the importance of practising at varying distances, and hoped that a match would be arranged with movable targets which would meet this important want.

THE OFFICERS.

Officers for the current year were then elected, and the list now stands thus, being substantially the same as last year:—

President—Lieut.-Col. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., Kingston. Vice-Presidents—Ontario, Lieut.-Col. Allan Gilmour, Ottawa; Quebec, Mr. Robert Hamilton, Quebec; New Brunswick, Lieut.-Col. Hon. A. E. Botsford, Sackville; Nova Scotia, Lieut.-General Laurie, M.P. (vice Lieut.-Col. Mackinlay, deceased); Manitoba, Hon. M. A. Girard, Winnipeg; British Columbia, Hon. W. J. Macdonald, Victoria; Prince Edward Island, Hon. R. P. Haythorne, Charlottetown. The presidents of the various provincial associations in connection with the association, and the Deputy Adjutant Generals commanding districts, being members of this association, are ex-officio vice-presidents.

Auditors—Mr. C. H. O'Meara and Major Wicksteed, Ottawa.

Council—The vice-presidents of the association, and the following members elected at this general meeting, together with a like number elected by the provincial associations at their annual meetings: *Ontario*—Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Major Toller, G.G.F.G.; Lieut.-Col. White, Ottawa; Lieut.-Col. J. Vance Gravely, 40th Bn.; Lieut.-Col. Hon. J. M. Gibson, M.P.P., 13th Bn.; Major Delamere, Q.O.R.; Lieut.-Col. Jones, 38th Bn. *Quebec*—Lieut.-Col. Miller, 8th R.R.; Lieut.-Col. Hon. J. A. Ouimet, M.P., Montreal; Lieut.-Col. McEachern, C.M.G., Ormstown; Mr. R. N. Hall, M.P.; Lieut.-Col. Massey, 6th Bn. *New Brunswick*—Mr. Josiah Wood, M.P.; Lieut.-Col. Beer, 74th Bn.; Capt. J. Twining Hartt, St. John Rifles. *Nova Scotia*—Major Weston, 66th; Lieut.-Col. Murray; Capt. Bishop, 63rd. *Manitoba*—Mr. Robert Watson, M.P.; Mr. W. B. Scarth, M.P. *British Columbia*—Lieut.-Col. Ross, Ottawa; Capt. H. H. Gray, G.G.F.G. *Prince Edward Island*—Lieut.-Col. H. R. Smith, 14th Bn.; Lieut. E. D. Sutherland, 43rd Bn. *North-West Territories*—Capt. E. Waldo, Ottawa. *Assiniboia*—Major John Walsh, Ottawa. The names of those elected at the provincial association meetings have not yet been forwarded to the secretary of the Dominion Association.

THE COUNCIL MEETING.

At a meeting of the council, held immediately after the general meeting, Lieut.-Col. Hon. J. A. Ouimet was re-elected chairman, and the executive of last year were reappointed. Lieut.-Col. Thos. Bacon was re-elected secretary and Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson treasurer. A vote of thanks was passed to the auditors. The chairman of the executive and Lieut.-Col. Tilton and Major Toller were appointed a finance committee.

The executive were authorized to make the necessary arrangements for sending the team to Wimbledon, and the secretary was instructed to notify those having won places on the team that they must notify him of their acceptance of the same on or before 10th March, after which date those next in order will be called upon to fill places not accepted. The selection of the officers of the team was left to the chairman of the council.

It was decided that the prize meeting should be held at Ottawa the week commencing Monday, 1st September. The executive were authorized to make the requisite increase in the target accommodation, and to draw up a prize list not exceeding \$7,500. The prize fund last year was \$7,376.

In the matter of a letter from the Major General Commanding the Militia, transmitting one from the Deputy Adjutant General at Halifax, stating that one of the first twenty in the competition for places on the Wimbledon team was not an efficient militiaman, though he had been certificated as such by his captain, it was resolved that the General Officer Commanding should be requested to institute an inquiry as to such certificate, and if it were found false that the competitor in question be struck off the Wimbledon list.

THE EXECUTIVE.

The executive met in the afternoon and re-elected Lieut.-Col. White chairman. Lieut.-Col. Anderson, Major Perley, Major Blaiklock, Capt. Hood and Lieut.-Col. Otter were appointed a committee to draft the programme for the prize meeting.

A new definition of efficiency was adopted, this being that any non-commissioned officer or man who has performed the last annual drill of his corps, or in cases where no drill has been ordered within the twelve months previous to the meeting of the D. R. A. at which he may be present, who has been for that time a duly enrolled member of his corps, shall be held to be an efficient member of the militia and entitled to compete as such at the D. R. A. meeting.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

Paid Adjutants.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Notwithstanding your declaration that the present is not an opportune time to press for the appointment of paid adjutants for our militia corps, I desire to present some further arguments in favour of the proposition. I wish to append a letter published I believe in 1885 and whilst not quite endorsing all that it contains, I think the experiment might well begin with the city regiments, of which there are, including the Garrison Artillery of Montreal and Halifax, 24 in number; this at a commencement of \$730 per annum, i.e., \$2 per diem, would cost the country an aggregate of \$17,520; a very small sum for the amount of good that would be gained. This I take it would be the least expensive way of doing it in the first place, but at the same time it would be a pity for the country to lose the valuable services of these trained officers, as it surely would unless there was some future opened to them, and I cannot but think that the idea thrown out by Lieut.-Col. Dawson in this letter which I append, would be far the best and most economical in the long run, and would induce the best of the cadets to apply for positions in our militia instead of going into the Imperial service.

If the strength of the Infantry School Corps was increased by supernumeraries, seconded for duty as adjutants to the various regiments in their districts, their promotion would go on with the rest and under the same regulations, and a 75 cents per day allowance, in lieu of quarters, fuel, light, rations, medical attendance, etc., etc., would put them upon an equal footing with their brethren employed in the Schools, and enable them to live at the headquarters of the regiments to which they were attached, which would be an absolute necessity if the work is to be satisfactorily done, and would be a far better measure than securing only part of their time and allowing them to fill it up with engineering, surveying or other employment, as mentioned in last letter, upon the principle that "half a loaf is better than no bread." Even with these allowances, the total cost for the 24 adjutants would not exceed \$24,000, a very small sum for a prosperous country like ours to pay.

In the departmental Report of Militia and Defence, dated 31st December, 1886, we find, upon page xxvi, the Major-General commanding saying: "I am convinced that great advantage would accrue to the city regiments by the establishment of paid adjutants, these officers to act as musketry instructors to the camps in their district. And I believe this could be done with very little, if any, expense to the public." Further on in the same report, he says: "In the near future it is probable that it may, as it ought to, be considered that all officers holding appointments should . . . have been graduates of the Royal Military College."

When Parliament authorizes the appointment of paid adjutants, which it must come to some day, even if procrastination carries the day now, I trust that it will be clearly laid down that all such appointees must be graduates of the Royal Military College; for so long as this is omitted the way remains open for politics to step in, whereas the only qualification should be a grade of certificate to be issued upon their

leaving the college and a big notice that "No others need apply." Appended is the letter alluded to above.

THE ODD FILE.

COL. DAWSON'S PROPOSITION.

TORONTO, Sept. 14th, 1885.

To the Honourable Sir A. P. Caron, K.C.M.G., Minister of Militia and Defence, Ottawa:

The idea of appointing paid adjutants for city battalions is well worth your earnest consideration.

When the recent troubles in the North-West broke out the city battalions were the first called upon for active service, no doubt because, being more concentrated than rural battalions, they could be moved on shorter notice; and in addition, most city battalions are provided with pioneer and ambulance corps, which we know from experience are very valuable adjuncts, and to keep these up entails considerable expense on the officers. So that if any future trouble should arise I am of opinion that the Government would have to depend mainly on the city battalions.

In no instance was a rural battalion sent to the North-West intact, but merely "provisional" battalions were made up of companies from several different corps, and as the officers and men were mostly strangers to each other I think it will be conceded that it would take some little time to get corps of this kind into an efficient state and provide them with the adjuncts before mentioned.

Now, as regards the city battalions, it is very necessary, in order to keep these corps in a state of efficiency, that there should be some officer to do the work, and also to be ready at all times to answer any questions of a regimental nature which may arise. This work at present has to be done (in most cases) by the commanding officer, which answers very well as long as commanding officers happen to have plenty of time and leisure at their disposal, but in case the commanding officer should be a professional or business man, it stands to reason he could not devote the time to every detail of regimental work which is absolutely necessary in order to keep his corps in that state of efficiency in which he would wish to see it.

A paid adjutant, in my opinion, would be of immense value. He could devote his whole time to his corps; also do the work of paymaster (which now is invariably done by the commanding officer), and would always have his commanding officer to consult with on regimental affairs. I would suggest that these adjutants be graduates of the Royal Military College at Kingston, thereby making use of young men, educated at the expense of the country, who are well qualified for the work, and preventing them from seeking employment in the United States, as I understand many of them do.

I feel sure that numbers of these young men would take these appointments in preference to commissions in the Imperial Army, and as in the latter case their friends would, in all probability, have to make them an allowance, surely they would make them the same allowance in the Canadian service.

I would also suggest that these young men receive commissions as lieutenants in the Canadian Regular Service, and be on the strength of one or other of the companies of the "Infantry School Corps" (if found practicable) so that their promotion would go on in the service. This would open a future to them and insure getting good men.

There are many other reasons which might be urged in favour of my idea, but I trust those I have given may be of use to you in considering this very important question; and if the Government could see its way to make a beginning with the city corps the system could very easily be extended to the rural corps.

GEO. D. DAWSON, Major,
Royal Grenadiers.

Regimental and Other News.

The following is the result of the Victoria Rifles' shooting competition, which ended on Saturday, 8th February, at their armoury, Montreal: First special—Lieut. Shaw, 46; Lieut. Rodden, 45; Pte. Keough, 43. First class—Capt. Becket, 46; Sergt. Lanigan, 43; Staff-Sergt. Wilson, 41. Second class—Sergt. Morris, 40; Pte. Becket, 33; Colour-Sergt. Gorman, 29. Third class—Corp. Hardy, 42; Pte. Mills, 41; Corp. Becket, 31.

Winnipeg.

The first match of the Morris tube competition of the 90th Rifles took place last Wednesday evening, 5th inst., at the armoury, Trinity Hall. There was a large number of entries, so many, in fact, that the committee have decided to increase the number of targets. The target used was the regulation class-firing military target, the highest possible

score being sixty points. The highest score was made by a third-class man, Bandsman Tennant, 53 points, he having never made a higher average than 40 per cent. before. Great interest was manifested by the competitors; and the indications are that the matches will become very popular among the members of the regiment. Following are some of the scores:—First class—Sergt. McKay, 52; Corp. White, 48; Pte. Tait, 41; Pte. Inman, 41. Second class—Pte. Eadie, 49. Third class—Bdsman. Tennant, 53; Corp. Beckett, 49; Sergt. Busn, 46; Pte. Briggs, 41; Pte. Mannex, 41; Pte. McDonald, 39; Pte. Walker, 39; Bugler Ferguson, 35; Pte. Bailey, 34; Pte. Gilroy, 29; Pte. Horan, 26.

Notwithstanding the fact that this is the coldest city in America, it contains within its limits as warm and enthusiastic citizens as any of the one-horse (?) towns in the east. Here we have the "old school" and a great many of the new school, and numbers of no school at all. But, when a project develops such as that of the "Canadian Military Rifle League," the latent fire of Inman, the zeal of McKay, the steady plodding of White, not to mention the fiery impetuosity of Eadie, Tait, and others begins to start afresh, and the Colonel gets warmed. The Morris tubes are fished out, the dust wiped off, and a competition is advertised, with the result that when the night of the match arrives there isn't room enough in the rink to hold the crowd and entries have to go begging. Now this must be entirely credited to the C. M. R. L., for the 90th have had the Morris tubes about two years, and only used them a few times. Go ahead League! We will follow you.

I am sorry to have to turn from the entertaining talk of rifle shooting to mention that Lieut. T. Smith, of F Co., "the Scotties," is lying very sick in the St. Boniface Hospital. He has had a long pull and is far from being out of danger, though it is hoped that the combination of "grippe" and typhoid fever may be mastered by a good constitution and the genial "Tam" restored to perfect health.

It has been taken for granted, we think, that the honour of belonging to the "volunteers" is sufficient in itself to provoke the utmost zeal and loyalty. But it's time such a theory was exploded. We are no more school boys drilling with broom handles for rifles, although one might as well have brooms as the rifles that the 90th possess. When at the front the boys used to clean out their *guns* with ashes, and only such material as ashes would clean them if cleaning was at all possible. Then the belts and pouches! Match boxes would be a better name! You can't button them, and the cartridges dance about and fall out, that is if the belt does not give way and you lose the lot. And the officers wonder why the men don't turn out! Give the men a proper equipment and put them on the level with the best and the result will be as it is elsewhere—success. Men are not children now-a-days; rather the opposite is the case: the boys are men.

I understand the Winnipeg Rifle Range Co. will be in good shape this year, and the greatest facilities will be offered to shootists. It is to be hoped that a great many matches will be fired. Nothing adds so much zest to practice as friendly competitions, especially with our old eastern comrades. At least that is the opinion of

BUCKSHOT.

Hamilton.

"C" company, 13th Battalion, held their annual dinner on Friday evening, 7th inst. It was intended that the ball should take the place of the company annual dinners; still it is a good old custom, and perhaps it would be a pity to give it up. A deal of enjoyment may be got out of company dinners, if a good amusement programme, if I might term it so, is arranged beforehand, for the dinner itself is usually a secondary part of the enjoyment, and a few good songs go a very long way towards making it a success. Then again the annual dinners are sometimes the only occasions when a captain has the pleasure of seeing his whole company, as they are generally the best attended parade of the year, particularly when there is a company fund, so perhaps it is just as well not to do away with them. The members numbered about 40 strong at the drill hall and marched to Newport's. The dinner was a success in every way. The toast list was short and the speeches brief. Captain Zealand was in the chair, ably supported, by Major Mason, Capt. Adam, "F" company, Lieut. Bowman, "H" company, and 2nd Lieut. Witton, "D" company. Sergt. Silk was the vice-chairman, with 2nd Lieuts. Pain and Margetts on his right and left respectively. Regrets were read from Lt.-Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson, Major Moore, Major McLaren, Surgeon Griffin and Adj. Stuart. The toast list comprised the following:—

"The Queen."

"The Governor General."

"Army, Navy and Volunteers."—Bugle Major Filkin (late Royal Engineers) and Sergt.-Major Athawes.

"Col. Gibson and Staff."—Major Mason (Quartermaster), Capt. Adam, "F" Co. (Acting Musketry Instructor).

"Officers 'C' Co."—Captain Zealand, Lieuts. Pain and Margetts.

"Our Guests."—Lieuts. Bowman and Witton, Sergt.-Major Athawes, Corp. Marris and Ex-Sergt. Battram.

"The Ladies."—Staff-Sergt. Rice.

"The Press."—By representatives present.

Major Mason said: I am glad to be with you this evening, particularly on account of my very long connection with the 13th. I might call myself the Father of the Regiment, being the oldest member as far service goes, though I am a young man yet. The 13th has gained the name of being one of the most faithful and zealous regiments serving Her Majesty in Canada. I hope that notwithstanding his many public duties Col. Gibson, our popular commanding officer, will long remain in command. I am glad to know that you have made a name as a shooting company; you have a good example in Capt. Zealand and Lieuts. Pain and Margetts, three of the best shots in the regiment, and you will, I am sure, give a good account of yourselves next summer. On resuming his seat "Father" Mason was loudly applauded.

Capt. Adam, "F" Co. (Acting Musketry Instructor), gave the company a good deal of praise for the interest they took in rifle shooting. The new system adopted tended to make the regiment better than ever it was before. He wound up by paying some neat compliments and saying some nice things about the staff, of which he is an honorary member, so to speak.

Songs were given by Corpls. Marris and Halford, Ptes. Moffatt, Hooper, Grosman and Russell, Staff-Sergt. Rice and Sergt.-Major Athawes, the singing of the two latter being specially worthy of mention, and much enjoyed. The parade was dismissed about one o'clock.

The Bugle band are complaining that they have no armoury or room of their own in the drill hall. A committee has been appointed to wait upon the commanding officer, and ask that a room be set apart for their use.

The commanding officer has been pleased to appoint Corp. A. T. Coddington to be sergeant in "A" Co. Sergt. Coddington well deserves the promotion. He has been in the battalion a long time, and has been a steady soldier and good attender.

The regiment will parade for battalion drill on Friday evening, 14th inst., at 7.45. This is the first battalion parade this year, and should be well attended, as the boys have had a long rest. The annual meeting of the officers will be held in the commanding officer's room after parade.

HAM.

The "Peterborough Rangers."

The 57th Battalion, "Peterborough Rangers," held their annual meeting on Tuesday evening the 4th inst. Lieut.-Col. J. Z. Rogers presided, and there was a good turnout of the officers. The report of the regimental committee showed a cash balance on hand of \$500. The following standing committees were struck for the year:—Regimental Committee—Major Edwards, Capt. Hill, Capt. and Adjutant Dennistoun; Band Committee—Capt. Langford, Capt. Miller, Lieut. Lech; Rifle Committee—Major Bell, Major Edwards, Capts. Miller, Mason, Brennan and Hill.

The regimental committee was empowered to purchase regulation helmets for the battalion. These will add materially to the appearance of the corps, as the helmets hitherto worn have been the old black helmets with steel furnishings. There was considerable discussion on the subject of the by-law of the Town of Peterborough, which is to be submitted to the ratepayers shortly, and grants \$3,000 towards the erection of armouries provided that a similar amount is given by the Government. It was decided to organize and canvass systematically in order to ensure the passage of the by-law.

The regimental drill class, which meets weekly, is doing good service to the n.c.o. of this corps. The class is at present in charge of the Adjutant. The men are exercised in squad and company drill and Morris tube practice, and a number of them will be efficient instructors by the time the spring drill commences.

Eighth Royal Rifles.

The departure of Lieut.-Col. Miller to reside in Montreal, and the consequent severance of his connection with the 8th Royal Rifles, which corps he has commanded for more than three years past, is much regretted by his old comrades in arms.

On the 31st ult. a deputation of non-com. officers headed by the old veteran Sergt.-Major Argue, on behalf of the Regimental Rifle Association, of which Col. Miller was president, called on the Colonel and presented him with a handsome gold ring accompanied by an appropriate address.

On the evening of the 1st inst. the officers of the Eighth entertained their retiring commanding officer at dinner at the Garrison Club, when a most enjoyable time was spent. The party broke up at midnight, after singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen," in a manner which, if not creditable to the musical abilities of the officers, at least proved their lungs to be all right.

Col. Miller left for Montreal on the 2nd inst., followed by the hearty good wishes of the 8th Royal Rifles and of his many friends in other corps, and among the ranks of the civilians of Quebec.

To Our Subscribers.

The SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT which appeared in our columns some time ago, announcing a special arrangement with Dr. B. J. KENDALL CO., of Enosburgh Falls, Vt., publishers of "A Treatise on the Horse and his Diseases," whereby our subscribers were enabled to obtain a copy of that valuable work FREE by sending their address to B. J. Kendall Co. (and enclosing a two-cent stamp for mailing same) is renewed for a limited period. We trust all will avail themselves of the opportunity of obtaining this valuable work. To every lover of the horse it is indispensable, as it treats in a simple manner all the diseases which afflict this noble animal. Its phenomenal sale throughout the United States and Canada makes it a standard authority. Mention this paper when sending for "Treatise."

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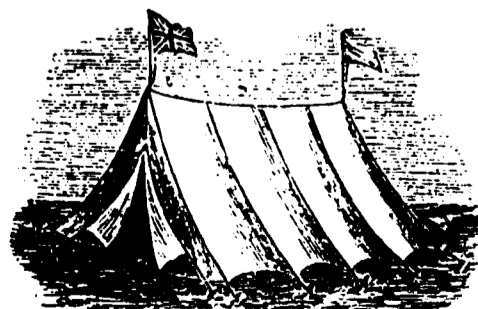
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APPOINTMENT.

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For further information see OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE.

Post Office Department, Ottawa, 1st November, 1889.



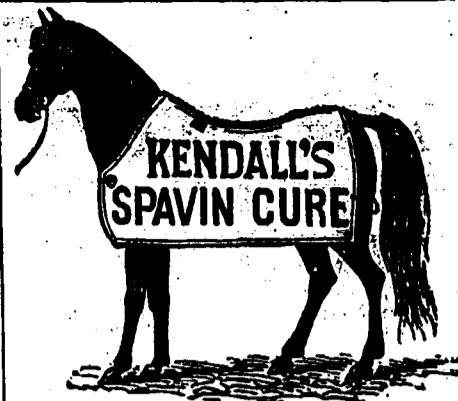
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Each Tender must be accompanied by an accepted Canadian bank cheque for an amount equal to ten per cent. of the total value of the articles tendered for, which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to supply the articles contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

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FRED. WHITE, Comptroller, N.W.M. Police, Ottawa, January 24th, 1890.



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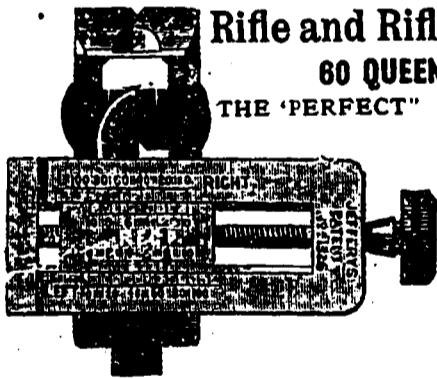
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